

Claims

1. A method of coordinating team members, each team member comprising a mission processor, in real time for continued coordinated operation in the absence of reliable communications between team members comprising the steps of:

prior to a mission, providing each team member with common programs and data for a mission, the data including identity of programs and data supplied to other team members and providing to each team member a pseudo random seed for use in conjunction with random functions;

giving each team member an initial set of conditions, whereby each team member performs deterministically to generate a same plan for itself and each of the other team members;

monitoring for a transmission event; and

responding to a transmission event by generating a re-planning operation, whereby each team member will produce a coordinated replan for itself and each other team member, whereby the team members remain coordinated.

2. The method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of monitoring for a transmission event comprises detecting the presence or absence of a scheduled transmission from a team member.

3. The method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of monitoring for a

transmission event comprises receiving a transmission from a broadcast source.

4. The method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of monitoring for a transmission event comprises receiving a transmission directed to team members from a headquarters.

5. The method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of monitoring for a transmission event comprises receiving a commercial satellite broadcast.

6. The method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of monitoring for a transmission event comprises maintaining a receiver for receiving a burst transmission from another team member.

7. The method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of monitoring for a transmission event comprises receiving a transmission indicative of a condition as reported by a team member.

8. The method of Claim 1 further comprising providing a system of said team members and a headquarters for communicating with said team members and further comprising the step of communicating between at least one team member and said headquarters.

9. The method of Claim 8 further comprising communication of changes in a plan from a team member or members to said headquarters.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of generation of an updated plan by said headquarters and transmission of said updated plan to said team members in response to the communication by said team member or members.

11. A system for coordinating a team comprising team members, each team member comprising a mission processor in real time for continued coordinated operation in the absence of reliable communications between team members comprising:

means for providing each team member with common programs and data for a mission prior to a mission, the data including identity of programs and data supplied to other team members and providing to each team member a pseudo random seed for use in conjunction with random functions;

loading means providing each team member an initial set of conditions, whereby each team member performs deterministically to generate a same plan for itself and each of the other team members;

monitoring means for a transmission event; and

means for responding to a transmission event by generating a re-planning operation, whereby each team member will produce a coordinated replan for itself and each other team member, whereby the team members remain coordinated.

12. The system according to Claim 1 wherein said means for monitoring for a transmission event means for detecting the presence or absence of a scheduled transmission from a team member.

13. The system according to Claim 1 wherein said means for monitoring for a transmission event comprises means for receiving a transmission from a broadcast source.

14. The system according to Claim 1 wherein means for monitoring for a transmission event comprises means for receiving a transmission directed to team members from a headquarters.

15. The system according to Claim 1 wherein means for monitoring for a transmission event comprises means receiving a commercial satellite broadcast.

16. The system according to Claim 1 wherein means for monitoring for a transmission event comprises a receiver for receiving a burst transmission from another team member.

17. The system according to Claim 1 wherein said means for monitoring for a transmission event comprises means receiving a transmission indicative of a condition as reported by a team member.

18. The system of Claim 1 further comprising a system of said team members and a headquarters for communicating with said team members and further comprising means for communicating between at least one team member and said headquarters.

19. The system of Claim 8 further comprising means for communication of changes in a plan from a team member or members to said headquarters.

20. The system of Claim 9 further comprising means for generation of an updated plan by said headquarters and transmission of said updated plan to said team members in response to the communication by said team member or members.